

# DIGITAL EDUCATION

PY T269/7.2 D574e  
Pennsylvania Public  
Television Network.  
Digital Education



PENNSYLVANIA STATE LIBRARY  
DOCUMENTS SECTION



Pennsylvania Public Television Network

**PY T269/7.2 D574e**

## **ADULT EDUCATION**

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## **KINDERGARTEN – 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE**

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## **PRE-KINDERGARTEN**

**P**arents are the first teachers of Pennsylvania's youngest citizens, and Pennsylvania's public television stations help them prepare their children for school. We air programs that parents trust to be safe, educational and entertaining.

Together we provide 384 hours of children's programming every week, reaching 98 percent of the Commonwealth. As we move into the era of digital TV, we will be able to broadcast quality children's programming all day, every day.

We also offer over 130 workshops per year for parents and child-care providers so they can help children develop positive viewing habits and prepare for school. These workshops directly impact the lives of 45,000 Pennsylvania children.



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## ADULT EDUCATION

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## KINDERGARTEN – 12th GRADE

**P**ennsylvania's public television stations help students learn and teachers teach. Forward-thinking educators realize the value of video as a teaching tool, and Pennsylvania's public television stations provide the very best. Collectively we send 90 hours of instructional television into classrooms across the state every week of the school year.

Instructional television brings the world, its events and leaders to life for 334,000 Pennsylvania students in 729 schools. In addition, teachers use countless hours of prime-time public television, such as NOVA, to enrich children's learning experiences.

Web-based support materials provide additional value for teachers using our educational programs.

Digital broadcasting opens the door for expansion of educational programs and more convenient delivery of support materials for teachers.



## ADULT EDUCATION

**F**uturists tell us that rapidly changing technology will require most adults to earn the equivalent of 30 college credits every 7 years just to remain employable in the 21st century. For many people, this will be possible only if they can learn “any time, any place” at reasonable costs. The collaboration between public television stations and local higher education institutions to offer telecourses to adult learners is one successful solution.

Pennsylvania’s public television stations, in partnership with 36 colleges and universities, offer 97 courses and serve 21,900 Pennsylvanians per year; 18 associate degrees and 6 bachelor’s degrees are available through distance learning. With digital television, telecourses could be offered 24 hours a day!

Maintaining a productive workforce is imperative for Pennsylvania’s future. Education, job training and placement are areas in which public television can help Pennsylvania’s workers. Public television stations currently provide over 60 teleconferences each year to meet the training needs of employers and workers. Digital systems will increase our capacity to offer workforce development services.







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## THE DIGITAL FUTURE

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## DIGITAL BASICS

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## INTRODUCTION

**P**ennsylvania's eight public television stations provide the Commonwealth with high quality educational broadcasting. While each station customizes its schedule to meet regional needs, the Pennsylvania Public Television Network's 1600-mile two-way microwave link connects us, so we can increase our efficiency and share resources. Together we provide educational programs and services for Pennsylvania learners of all ages:

- programs for parents and child-care providers, stressing skills children need for early growth
- high-quality educational programming to support students
- television and Web-based curriculum materials and professional training to improve the classroom skills of teachers
- college courses leading to degrees for adults
- training programs and video conferencing services for the state's workforce
- public affairs programming to educate and enlighten all of Pennsylvania's citizens

**Pennsylvania public television is a leader in using various technologies to educate, enlighten and connect citizens of all ages contributing to the lives of families, the success of schools and colleges, the productivity of businesses and the quality of communities.**





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## THE DIGITAL FUTURE

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## DIGITAL BASICS

### **Greater quality, greater quantity — that's what digital broadcasting brings to the citizens of Pennsylvania!**

After 50 years of broadcasting in the analog format, Pennsylvania's public television stations are on target to offer digital services by 2001, two full years ahead of the FCC deadline, thanks in part to the visionary leadership of the Governor and General Assembly.

Viewers will watch prime-time programs in their homes that are equal to movie-theater quality. Their choice of programs will increase dramatically as each station is able to broadcast at least four separate channels at the same time. People will be able to interact with programs and access related Web sites.

### **Digital broadcasting: the three great advantages:**

- High-definition TV (HDTV): TV pictures with increased resolution and clarity in a wide-screen format and six-channel CD-quality sound.
- Multicasting: The ability to transmit four separate channels of standard-definition TV to give viewers more choices.
- Datacasting: The transmission of text, curriculum materials, photos and children's educational games while the viewer is watching a program (at speeds 600 times faster than standard computer modems).



# THE DIGITAL FUTURE

## **Distance Learning**

As more adults — including full-time workers and parents — need advanced education, colleges and universities must provide more flexible and convenient scheduling. Various technologies, particularly television and the Internet, are increasingly used to meet this challenge. Digital broadcasts will permit Pennsylvania's public television stations to dedicate at least one channel to full-time distance learning programs.

## **Datastreaming**

The rollout of digital broadcasting will enable Pennsylvania's public television stations to transmit audio, video and data to many sites throughout the regions they serve. This will be an easy, cost-effective means to receive and transmit high volumes of digital data very quickly.

## **Professional Development**

The unprecedented expansion of information provides both an opportunity and a requirement that professionals keep up on the latest information and developments in their respective fields. New digital technology will permit Pennsylvania's public television stations to deliver general information or specific workshops and seminars to large or small groups or to individuals who must complete certification or continuing education requirements.





